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to profit by this excellent opportunity to extend their inquiries into these most interesting regions.

Sir HENRY RAWLINSON said there was nothing to prevent King Theodore taking the prisoners from Magdala by Dembea into Kwara, his native province, where he was accustomed to take refuge in times of difficulty. If our troops followed him into Kwara, we might certainly drive him on into the hands of the Egyptians; but it was the special object of the expedition to avoid all complicity with the Egyptians, and that he believed to be the main reason for selecting Zulla instead of Massowah as the point of entry, Massowah having always been garrisoned by Egyptian troops, while Zulla was unoccupied.

The PRESIDENT, in reply to Lord Houghton and Mr. Danby Seymour with respect to the selection of the scientific members, said all he could do was to make a suggestion, and that suggestion was at once adopted by the Government. Although the persons that might have been recommended here might have been very suitable men, he knew that he could not have selected a better geologist than Mr. Blanford, who was to be sent from Bombay; and he ventured to say that we could not have found a more proper man to carry out the geographical explorations than their secretary, Mr. Markham. He had only to add that in the library of the Society there existed a large number of works on Abyssinia, which had been thoroughly well classed by Mr. Lamprey, their librarian, and had been consulted by the Government departments.

Second Meeting, 25th November, 1867.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*William Ferneley Allen, Esq.*, Lord Mayor of London; *G. Andrews, Esq.*; *Geo. Armitstead, Esq.*; *the Duke of Buccleugh, K.G., &c.*; *Sir D. Baxter, Bart.*; *W. J. Best, Esq.*; *A. M. Bethune, Esq.*; *J. F. J. Cuttance, Esq.*; *G. E. Dalrymple, Esq.*; *J. Donald, Esq.*; *J. Edward, Esq.*; *G. E. Forbes, Esq.*; *R. M. Kerr, Esq.*, Judge of the Sheriff's Court; *the Right Hon. Lord Kinnaird, K.G.*; *W. Lawson, Esq.*; *Col. Lloyd Lindsay, M.P.*; *John Mackinlay, Esq., C.E., &c.*; *Duncan McGregor, Esq.*; *F. M. Metcalfe, Esq.*; *T. Muir, JUN., Esq.*; *J. Paterson, Esq.*; *Col. Sir Arthur Phayre*; *C. A. Pierce, Esq.*; *Rev. A. Raleigh, D.D.*; *A. J. Rhodes, Esq.*; *E. Spicer, Esq.*; *Lieut. Steel, R.E.*; *Lieut. O. B. C. St. John, R.E.*; *J. G. Taylor, H.B.M. Consul in Kurdistan*; *J. H. Tritton, Esq.*; *Capt. F. J. S. Venner*; *Rev. J. Waite*; *M. J. Barrington Ward, Esq.*; *B. Washbourne, Esq., M.D., &c.*; *Robert Spence Watson, Esq.*; *M. Woodifield, Esq., M.I.C.E.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY FROM NOV. 11TH TO NOV. 25TH.—
'Nathaniel Pearce—Life and Adventures of, during a residence in Abyssinia from the year 1810 to 1819.' Mr. Coffin's Account of his Visit to Gondar. 2 vols. 8vo, 1831. Purchased. 'Journal of Mr. Blumhardt to Abyssinia, 1838.' The late Travels of S. Giacomo Baratti into the remote country of the Abisines, 1690. Purchased.

Mons. Poncet—‘*Voyage to Æthiopia in the years 1698-1699 and 1700.*’ London, 1709. Purchased. Collection of printed and MS. documents relating to the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa, by James Macqueen, Esq. Presented by the Author. Views in Abyssinia, lithographs and photographs. War Office Topographical Department. Presented by the Secretary of State for War. ‘*Drei Monate in Abyssinia,*’ von F. H. Apel. Zurich, 1866. Purchased. ‘*Le Commerce de la France avec le Soudan,*’ par Henri Stucklé. Paris, 1864. Purchased. ‘*Phares de la Méditerranéen et le Mer Noir.*’ The French Marine. ‘*Cesare Moreno.*’ Extrait à la ‘*Figaro,*’ Jeudi, 1867. ‘*The Negro and Jamaica, 1866,*’ by Commander Pim. ‘*Reflections-Kreises Angular Distanzen,*’ von A. Moritz. Tiflis, 1859. ‘*Reise durch Kambodja nach Cochinchina,*’ von Dr. Adolf Bastian. 8vo., 1863, Jena. Presented by the Author. ‘*Nova Zembla,*’ by J. Sporer, in ‘*Mittheilungen*’ of Justus Perthes. Presented by Dr. Petermann. ‘*A travers l’Amérique Centrale, le Nicaragua et le Canal interocéanique,*’ par Felix Belly. 2 vols. 8vo., maps, 1867. Purchased. ‘*Additional Inscriptions from the Hauran and the Eastern Desert of Syria.*’ 8vo., 1859. By John Hogg, Esq. Presented by the Author. ‘*Report on the Head-waters of the Rakaia, New Zealand,*’ with Map and 20 illustrations. 1867. Julius Haast. Presented by the Author.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING, Nov. 11TH.—Two Maps of the Northern part of Abyssinia, from Massaua to Halai. Presented by Dr. Petermann. A Map of the Canary Islands. By D. A Map of Nicaragua, by M. de Sonnestern. Presented by the Author.

In commencing the proceedings the PRESIDENT said that all who knew with what tenacity he had opposed the general belief that Dr. Livingstone had been murdered, as reported by the Johanna men, and the conviction he had expressed, that with a few black men only the great traveller might carry out this mission as successfully as when, with Makololo men only, he formerly traversed and retraversed South Africa, would readily conceive with what delight he received the communication about to be read from Dr. Kirk, containing such very hopeful tidings relating to his dear friend. Lord Stanley had since forwarded to him the official despatches sent by Mr. Churchill, our Consul, at Zanzibar, on the same subject. The letter from Dr. Kirk to himself was as follows:—

“MY DEAR SIR RODERICK,

“Zanzibar, Sept. 28th, 1867.

“You know that a rumour has been current on the coast to the effect that a white man had been seen near Ujiji. Such a story came to us at a time when it was quite impossible that Livingstone could be the man. Now, however, another narrative has reached us, which, if we believe, it is I think difficult to avoid the conclusion that our distinguished traveller may even yet succeed, and disprove the story given us of his death by the Johanna men.

“A Banian trader at Bagamoyo told me three days ago that he had heard a rumour that some white man had been seen at Wemba; of this he seemed to

have no doubt. To-day he brought a native, whom he introduced and left alone with me. I entered into conversation with him, and led him on in an irregular way to give a general account of his journey, without guiding his imagination by any leading questions, determining to meet him again and fill in the details. When I had dismissed him, after my first conversation, it appeared that a ship would sail for Bombay immediately; and not to lose a chance, Mr. Churchill, the Consul, to whom I gave the notes, at once sent all to Bombay, with a request that the substance might be telegraphed to the Foreign Office; viz., 'that we had now some ground for believing that a white man resembling Livingstone had been seen to the south of the Sea of Ujiji.'

"This native, with the rest of the caravan, left Bagamoyo, and passed along the usual trade-route to Wemba and Marungu, where they remained trading for some time, and again returned to the coast. When in one of the villages under Marungu, which is a region governed by several chiefs more or less dependent on one paramount, a white man arrived with a party of thirteen blacks, who spoke Suaheli. All had firearms, and six carried double-barrelled guns. The white man was of moderate height, not stout, dressed in white, and wore a cloth wrapped round the head. He gave the chief a looking-glass, and was offered ivory, which he declined, stating that he was not a trader. He then went northwards. I do not know that this man can tell much more; he is a simple carrier who formed part of a caravan; but if we can find the head men of the party it will be possible no doubt then to identify this stranger, who seems to our hopeful imagination so like our long lost friend; and then, only think of the revelations he will have to make to us!"

"It is decided that we go to Bagamoyo in two days, to make inquiry, but we must do so quietly.

"The story of a white man having been seen at Uruwa, to the west of the Lake, is a distinct thing from the more definite narrative we now have. But the one adds confirmation to the other, and shows us that if it be Livingstone on whose track we now are, that he has more than half finished his work, and is about to go to the Albert Nyanza. I may mention that there is now no doubt that the white man of whom I wrote formerly, long ago, as having been seen on one of the Lakes by an Arab who remained on the coast, was a Turk, one of the traders from Gondokoro, who have been met with in Uganda by Zanzibar merchants. The description fully satisfied me of this, and nothing is more probable. Thus the traders of Egypt and Zanzibar have now met in the interior of Africa. Speke's route has been quickly followed: how far this has been for the immediate benefit of Africa others may judge. In the end Africa will be overrun with traders in all directions, and then the vast resources of this continent will be shown.

"*POSTSCRIPT.*—Since writing the above, I have again seen my informant, and placed before him my books of photographic portraits. In the first book he did not recognise the likeness of the man he saw in the interior, although it contained a very fine side-view of Livingstone. In the second he at once pointed to a staring likeness of Livingstone, which I kept as a caricature, and said, 'That is the man.' 'But,' he added, 'come to Bagamoyo and see my master and the other men; they have seen him also and will tell you all they know.'

"Suspend your opinion for a little; Mr. Churchill and I go in two days to Bagamoyo to make inquiry. Please communicate this news to Mr. Webb and Miss Livingstone, and other friends; but, until my next, maintain some caution.

"JOHN KIRK."

The following despatch from H.M. Consul was next read:—

“ My LORD,

“ Zanzibar, Sept. 28th, 1867.

“ A native boat being on the point of leaving this for Makalla, near Aden, I hasten to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a despatch of this day's date, that I have addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, acquainting him with the intelligence gathered within the last two days from people who have come from the interior of Africa, with reference to a white man having been seen seven months ago at a place called Marungu, 650 miles due east of Zanzibar.

“ Since writing the accompanying despatch, the slave on whose information more particularly the belief of Dr. Livingstone being alive may be based, has, among a hundred photographs, recognised in the portrait of Dr. Livingstone, the man he saw at Marungu.

“ This is indeed glorious news, and Dr. Kirk and I leave this for Bagamoyo, as soon as possible, to gather further information from the other members of the caravan to which the slave in question is attached.

“ I have, &c.,

“ H. A. CHURCHILL.”

“ The Lord Stanley.”

STATEMENT made in the Suaheli language before Dr. KIRK, H.M. Vice-Consul, by a native lately returned from the interior of Africa.

“ Zanzibar, Sept. 28th, 1867.

“ The caravan to which this native belonged left Bagamoyo and followed the usual trade-route by Magara, Urori, and Wemba to Marungu. While they remained in one of the villages of Marungu a white man came from the south, having with him a party of thirteen natives, who spoke Ki-Suaheli. He was of moderate height, and not stout, and was dressed in white, and wore a piece of cloth folded round his head. His party were all armed, six with double-barrelled guns; the remainder with flint muskets.

“ This white man gave the chief a looking-glass, and on being offered ivory in return, declined it, saying that he was not a trader, but was passing on to the next chief, but that he would accept any small thing as a token of friendship. To a Balooch of the trading party he gave a pistol, but whether this man is now in Zanzibar is now uncertain.

“ It is now seven months since this white man was seen in the country of Marungu. Our informant gives the following particulars of his return route:—‘ Marungu is a level country. There are two rivers in it; one, the Chambezi, is full of hippopotamus; the other is smaller. In both the water flows gently to the north.

“ ‘ The head chief of Marungu is named Kitumbua; there are four others, viz., Chuga, Kasouzo, Charika, and Chanza. From Marungu to Wemba is seven days' march. The chief of Wemba is named Chubañanga; there are under him Mtuka, Mwouva, Marurani, and Kombe. From Wemba to Mambwe is two days. To Umyamwanga seven days, to Wiwa two days. Nika is close to Wiwa. From Nika to Urage three days, to Mafua three days, to Urori one day. From Urori to Uhene is one month. To Usagara three days.’

“ This statement was made only two hours before the departure of the mails. The Banian who brought our present informant, also states that at Bagamoyo there is a rumour that a white man has been seen alone in the country of Uruwa to the west of the sea of Ujiji. It will be necessary to go to Bagamoyo for the purpose of obtaining further information.

“ JOHN KIRK.”

The PRESIDENT then called attention to a communication from the Rev.

Mr. Price, Chief of the Church Missionary Society at Bombay, from whose establishment Dr. Livingstone took the educated negroes who were now with him. Mr. Price, like himself, disbelieved the story of the Johanna men, not only on account of their mendacious character, but for other reasons. For his own part, the President accounted for their desertion of Livingstone in this wise. They were men of the coast, and had a rooted dislike to go far into the interior of Africa, with the language and people of which they were unacquainted. Now, when these men reached the last station from which there was a chance of retreat to the coast, they resolved to abscond; and trumped up this story of Livingstone's death to account for their return, and make good their claim to the wages due to them. The question, however, would speedily be set at rest by the Expedition which had been sent out by the Government under Mr. Young. If the story told by Moosa should turn out to be true, they would have to mourn the death of Livingstone; and in that case these Johanna men would be entitled to the wages they claimed; but, should their story turn out to be as false as he (the President) believed it to be, then instead of payment they ought to receive punishment—an opinion he had already expressed to H.M. Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Price wrote as follows:—

“ There is, moreover, one circumstance to which no reference seems to have been made, but which, nevertheless, strongly induces me to disbelieve the reports which have come to hand, and to cherish the hope that Livingstone is still alive, and pursuing his useful career of discovery in the heart of Africa. It will be remembered that the Doctor took with him nine African Christian lads, who had been brought up at our institution at Sharanpūr. These were, without exception, intelligent youths, about twenty years of age, and had a tolerable knowledge of English. Most of them possessed strong physical development, and, being fired with a desire for enterprise, cheerfully volunteered to accompany Dr. Livingstone. I call to mind how, when the Doctor had them together in my verandah, after giving them some account of the kind of life they had to expect and the difficulties that lay before them, he concluded his remarks by saying, very impressively, ‘ Now, my lads, you see we may have to encounter hardships and dangers; but bear in mind, above all things, that whatever happens, you must stick close to me.’ ”

It appeared that these youthful Africans had stuck close to Livingstone, and the result was that, with the addition of two or three men, as he went forward, to act as carriers, he had thirteen men with him when he was seen by the native informant of Dr. Kirk, and they all carried the muskets which we knew the expedition had been supplied with. He hoped the day would not be far distant when Livingstone, issuing by Lake Albert Nyanza and the Nile, would appear among them again; and it was the wish of his heart that he might live to preside at his reception and to congratulate him on an enterprise which was not only interesting to them as geographers, but which touched the heart of the whole British nation.

CAPTAIN SHERARD OSBORN said as one of those who supported the President in his original opinion, as to the amount of belief to be attached to the story of the Johanna men, he cordially agreed with him in believing it would probably turn out that Livingstone did not perish at the head of Lake Nyassa. He would go further and say, that if Mr. Young should reach the same point and bring back the same story, he would not believe that Livingstone was lost. He attached little value to Dr. Kirk's intelligence. The value of Johanna news was about equal to that picked up in the bazaar at Zanzibar—Dr. Kirk killed Livingstone one mail, and brought him to life the next. It was the natural habit of the Asiatic or the African, when a man passed beyond the little district in which he lived, to suppose that he was lost. He could state, from his own experience as a traveller and geographer, that as soon as

a traveller had passed over the boundary which separated the known from the unknown, there usually arose some rumour that he was lost. This fact had come very vividly to his mind in connection with the men whom they thought, nine years ago, were lost in the Franklin expedition. After years of struggle and search for them, and after they were given up as certainly dead, he feared from evidence that has since reached us that some of them were living long after they were despaired of. Nothing, therefore, would cause him to act on the assumption that Livingstone was dead until we had indubitable proof of the fact. To turn to a more practical point, he would ask the Society to take it into their deep consideration, now that Livingstone was known to be pushing to the northward, whether the time had not come that somebody was sent from the northward to meet him—Sir Samuel Baker, if he could be obtained, if not, another good and enterprising explorer.

Mr. D. J. KENNELLY said he could confirm the testimony of the Rev. Mr. Price, respecting the young Africans Livingstone took with him from Bombay. They were educated at the Sharanpür Mission, an industrial institution of the Church Missionary Society. They were very intelligent boys, and from their education and the ideas they had received in India through mixing in Society, he believed they would be very helpful to Livingstone.

Mr. HORACE WALLER (formerly lay member of the Zambesi Mission) said he thought they might find in Dr. Kirk's letter reasonable ground for the hope that Livingstone was still alive. There were one or two things that almost identified Livingstone with this white man who had been seen. No double-barrelled guns would be seen in the hands of any other set of men in the interior, not even if this had been a trading party coming up from the Portuguese settlement in the south. He believed that to be one of the strongest proofs of identity. As to his dress, he was rather at a loss, unless the Doctor had by some chance lost that consular or navy cap with which they were all so familiar. It was always a surprise to his friends, when on the Zambesi that he would never shield his head from the sun. Another strong point in the evidence was the rejection of ivory by the traveller. In that country a mere traveller was not understood at all; it at once excited suspicion among the chiefs. He regretted to say that not once in a century did a white man pass into that distant country who was not a slave dealer or an ivory trader. The fact of the white man who was seen being not a trader was a strong circumstance in favour of its being Livingstone. With regard to the boys who were with him, two of them the Doctor had liberated from a Portuguese slave gang on the Shiré. They were his special favourites, and he took them to Bombay and had them educated there. These lads knew the object of the expedition, and they promised that they would return with Dr. Livingstone, come what might. He must confess that when Moosa brought the story of one of these boys, Wakotani by name, having deserted the Doctor, it at once smacked to him of falsehood. He had before told them his opinion of Moosa and his companions. A greater set of scoundrels never existed; they could not tell the truth even by accident.

Mr. CRAWFORD said he should have been very glad to believe that Dr. Livingstone was still living, but he could not bring himself to that belief. He could not discover in the evidence produced anything to warrant the statement that Livingstone lived. What did it amount to? Simply to this, that a native belonging to a caravan had seen in the interior a white man of middle stature. That white man might have been any other European, or even a Turk. If that white man had been Dr. Livingstone, would he not, knowing that the caravan was proceeding to the coast, have sent some evidence by the party to inform his friends of his whereabouts? He had a word to say in favour of Moosa. Dr. Livingstone had great friendship for Moosa; he twice selected him because he specially trusted him. And this was the man

who was supposed to have abandoned Livingstone. For his own part he was disposed to believe in the story that Moosa told.

Mr. LAYARD, M.P., asked if the young negroes mentioned spoke the language of the country to which Livingstone was going?

Mr. KENNELLY said some of them were from the Somāli country, where Suaheli was spoken.

Mr. WALLER said the two boys belonged to the Wahiao tribe, which extended over a very wide region in that part of the country. They spoke the language perfectly, and it was for that reason that Dr. Livingstone wished to take them. The Suaheli language would be spoken by the Somāli lads who came from Bombay, so that the Doctor would have the advantage of the Suaheli language as well as the Wahiao. With regard to Mr. Crawfurd's remark about Livingstone not sending letters to the coast, it must be remembered that the party to which Dr. Kirk's informant belonged was a slave caravan, and it was very likely Dr. Livingstone saw it would be useless sending letters down from the interior by such means, for these traders were too much afraid that their doings would be known on the coast, and could not be relied upon for the safe conveyance of the Doctor's letters.

Mr. LAYARD asked Mr. Waller if, in the event of Dr. Livingstone being killed, he thought these young men would have returned to the coast.

Mr. WALLER. Their first object undoubtedly would be to return to the coast and report themselves to the English at Zanzibar, amongst whom were some they had known on the Zambesi.

The PRESIDENT, referring to a remark by Captain Sherard Osborn, explained that he did not intend to convey the impression that Livingstone would be considered as lost should it turn out that the expedition sent to the head of Lake Nyassa failed to discover any traces of him. All that he said was that the expedition under Mr. Young would set at rest the question whether he was killed at the spot reported by Moosa or not. With respect to his old and valued friend, whom they called "Objector General," he was astonished that Mr. Crawfurd stood forward to say he really believed in such a man as Moosa. Upon this point he would read a paragraph from a letter by Sir Thomas Maclear, astronomer at the Cape:—"Moosa's statements are valueless. Mr. Young intended if possible to get hold of the fellow and to take him *vi et armis* to the locality of the tragedy that he reported; but I suspect Moosa would not afford an opportunity to be caught." With regard to the suggestion of Captain Sherard Osborn, that an expedition should go from the north to meet Livingstone, he would state that he had received a letter from Sir Samuel Baker, who was formerly an unbeliever in the safety of Livingstone, and who argued strongly in favour of that view at the meeting of the British Association at Dundee, but who was now of a different opinion. He said in his letter that he wished the Viceroy of Egypt could be induced to fit out an expeditionary steamer to the Upper Nile and Lake Albert Nyanza. If this were done, he (Sir Samuel) would be glad to offer his services to lead it and meet Livingstone in his way northward from Lake Tanganyika.

The following Paper was then read by the author:—

1. *Explorations in Central America, accompanied by Survey and Levels from Lake Nicaragua to the Atlantic Ocean.* By JOHN COLLINSON, Esq., C.E., F.R.G.S.

THE Panama Railroad, admirable as it is, does not nearly fill the requirements of the immense traffic across the Isthmus of America, nor, on account of the deadly nature of its climate and the ineffi-